

[Interview with Vito Cacciola #18]

Conn. 1938-9 [40?] [Interm? 18?]

INTERVIEW

with

VITO COCCIOLA CACCIOLA

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By

Merton R. Lovett

. . . (From Memory) " I thank God another food day has come to end. No more

do I worry about tomorrow. Eacha Each day is for itself. " I'm / a very busy. I'ma mucha strong. I keep de the good appetite. Now I geta get two more pupils of de the music. Some peoples cannot teacha teach de the boys and girls good. They can make music alright.

They cannot give de the knowledge to boys and girls. "Does you know Maynard Walker[,?]? Yea, he's music teacher, One Italian come come to me. He say; 'My boy take lesson on de piano. De teacher no good. If he's de teacher, I'm de lawyer.

Vito, will you come my house and teacha my Tony?' " I teacha him much. Now he playa with Muir's orchestra.

He be de maestro someday; but he play a de jazz. He make funny business with de piano. " I no like swing music. I de artist, not de monkey. I playa with correctness. I have de artist soul. "Dis This week I fixa fix shoes for de the poor peoples. De city paya me. Eacha

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cobbler geta \$25.00 of work. One week it's one cobbler, 2 next week it's another. Now it's my turn. When I geta de \$25.00 I hava my eye fix-ed. I go to de Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. They have good surgeon there. They cuta off de cataract. Den I see good with two / eyes. I no get de headache. " Yes, many times I fixa de the shoes for poor peoples, - what you calla call charity. I geta get no pay. One day de the pretty girl coma see me. She say; 'Vito, cana you fixa my shoes? Dey is look very bad. Nexta Next Thursday I graduate from de the High School.' " Her shoes is fita fit only for ash can. I say, 'Drya you tears Rositta. Leave de shoes here. I fixa dem them so good you feel mucha much happy. You danca dance I tink think .' " No, de shoes was too ag-ed. I throw them away. I buy new pair mucha much beautiful. They was pumps. They wasa shiney.

They hava high heels and de the little bow. They look fit for de the princess.

[?] " Rositta come for old shoes, she say; 'Has you fixa fix my shoes Vito?' I say, 'I fixa fix them so good you can wear them to your wedding. See!' " She looka and her face maka shine like she see de the good Virgin. Den Then she say 'Vito, these is nota not my shoes!' I respond, 'They is de the graduation shoes for Rositta. Does it suit you?' " Never', she reply, 'did I see such beautiful shoes.' But, she say sorrowful, 'I have no money. My papa no worka work.' "Forgeta Forget that', I maka make answer. 'I getta get paid with mucha much profit. My heart is verry very glad. When you marry de the fine young 3 man, invite Vito to de the wedding.' By jingo, she does that, three, four years ago. This makes a nice ending " [Yes, some peoples is ungrateful. When they maka de double cross, Vito is their friend no more. Looka these names, they is peoples what cheata me. They say 'Vito, I maka you pay when I geta de money'. Does they keepa their word? They does not. " Some peoples have say to me, 'Vito, we is your friend.

Doa me this! Doa me that!' Behinda my back what does they do? they say, 'Vito, be is queer in de head!' They say, 'Vito is butcher not cobbler.' You can betta I make even with them. De bible say, 'An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.' " Well, Mr. Lovett, perhaps I

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forgivea them, but not so mucha as seventy times seven, I forgiva them. But believea you me, if they geta bad luck, I no feela bad. I no fella [fela?] la bad.”]